

[J.E. Jones]

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FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER George Hartman ADDRESS 2438 W., Lincoln

DATE November 3, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

1. Name and address of informant J. E. Jones, 515 North 15th.
2. Date and time of interview Thursday, 1 to 3:30 p.m.
3. Place of interview 516 North 15th.
4. Name and address of person, if any, who [put?] you in touch with informant None
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you

None

6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

Average homes. He lives with his son. Has no home that can be called his. Home is of the average small-wage earner. [C-15 Neb.?)

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER George Hartman ADDRESS 2438 W., Lincoln, Nebra.

DATE November 3, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

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NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT J. E. Jones, 515 North 15th

1. Ancestry German

2. Place and date of birth Ohio, 1870

3. Family Lives with son. Wife is dead.

4. Places lived in, with dates Ohio, 1870-'82; Nebraska [1883?]-1938

5. Education, with dates 8th grade and isn't sure of that.

6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates

Hasbeen farmer all his life. Retired now.

7. Special skills and interests

None especially.

8. Community and religious activities Methodist

9. Description of informant Tall, slender, gray-eyed, wears glasses. Weatherbeaten face.

10. Other points gained in interview

Name excepting he seems to think that other interests and work would been better to his liking.

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

On January 12, 1938, it was thawing all day, the skies were mostly overcast. I was in [Seward?] County, Nebraska. About a quarter to [four in?] the afternoon I left my house on my horse. Around four the storm struck. It started blowing about fifty miles an hour. I could

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hear a [hum coming?] and the storm struck. My horse buckled and started running straight ahead running as fast as he could. We got to some neighbors and I was about froze stiff.

The storm quit about eleven thirty. We had nothing but [cobs?] to burn and had to burn them all night. The next morning it was 26 below. Many people froze to death in this storm. I went home the next afternoon and everybody at home was worried about me. No ways of communication made it troublesome in a storm of that kind.

I've lived in Nebraska for many years and have been in Minnesota at times. At forty below in Minnesota it seems colder here in Nebraska at [sore?] because of the fact that the air is drier than in Nebraska.

Never had much trouble with the Indians excepting having to watch for them because they were great thieves. They were pretty good beggars, also and were always around begging for something to eat.

Grasshoppers and drouths were our chief worries on the farm. If it wasn't for those two things, Nebraska would always be prosperous.

The blue valley region where in Seward stands is one of the prettiest places in Nebraska. The rolling wave of grass that were so beautiful seem to all have disappeared and the man-made country takes its place.

Many men left Nebraska to go to tie gold field. Most of them came back empty-handed sorry that they had ever left their homes here in Nebraska.

The first years that people lived in Nebraska, they had to eat sorghum and molasses that was used for sweetening. Sorghum was about the first thing early settlers raised because there was no sugar. Prairies chickens and fish [furnished?] the meat so the country was filled with fish and chickens.

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The early settlers, all had sheep which supplied the wool and the women spun the wool, using it for bedding and clothes.

There was all hand-plows in those days which made it a lot more work.

There was no roads, no bridges and we had to ford the streams. There was no laid-out roads and we had to go over the country the best we could.

The old-fashioned buhr-mills were common on all stream that had water enough for power. There were more mills in those days than now. A good many old saw mills which were run by water power. People lived in a primitive state so that now we can enjoy modern conveniences.